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Summary record of the 21st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Loedel ..... (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

The meeting was suspended at 10.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

Agenda item 83: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*)

Draft resolutions A/C.4/58/L.9/Rev.1, A/C.4/58/L.10, A/C.4/58/L.11, A/C.4/58/L.12, A/C.4/58/L.13, A/C.4/58/L.14/Rev.1, A/C.4/58/L.15, A/C.4/58/L.16 and A/C.4/58/L.22

Agenda item 84: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*)

Draft resolutions A/C.4/58/L.17, A/C.4/58/L.18, A/C.4/58/L.19, A/C.4/58/L.20 and A/C.4/58/L.21

1. **Mr. Carnelos** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that in view of the fact that it was a holiday, that many delegations had not yet received instructions from their Governments and that the draft resolutions related to very important agenda items which required the broadest possible consensus, voting on the draft resolutions should be deferred until Thursday, 13 November, in order to facilitate mediation efforts.

2. **Mr. Cunningham** (United States of America) supported the Italian proposal but asked that common sense should prevail in the voting on the draft resolutions relating to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

3. The intention of his Government, which sponsored one of the draft resolutions, was to demonstrate full support for UNRWA through a draft resolution adopted by consensus that would include all donors and consolidate the various resolutions on UNRWA within the context of the reform of the General Assembly.

4. He noted that during the past month three United States nationals who had been providing assistance to Palestinian refugees had died in the Gaza Strip and that the United States was the individual donor contributing the greatest amount of funds to the organization.

5. He hoped that the draft resolutions would be adopted by consensus in their present form and said that his Government was prepared to waive the requirement to submit reports, with a view to reducing the workload of the Secretariat. That proposal would benefit all parties: the international community, the General Assembly and its reform process and, most important, the Palestinian refugees themselves. For that reason, his Government was confident that the interests of the Agency and those of the Palestinian refugees would be taken into consideration in the voting and that the wrong message would not be sent to the community of donors.

6. **The Chairman** said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to defer the taking of decisions on the draft resolutions.

7. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.